(b) if so, the details of such incidents; and

(c) the steps being taken to face the challenge effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For tackling the problems of terrorism in J&K, the Government have adopted a multipronged approach which includes interalia strengthening the border management, to curb infiltration neutralising plans of militants by Pro-active action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through Unified Headquarter operations group at various levels, improved technology weapons and equipment for the Security forces, galvanising development programmes and deepening the democratic process etc. This approach which is dynamic in nature is constantly reviewed to meet the changing strategy of the terrorists.

Law to Replace Tada

†631. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to make any stringent punitive law like TADA in view of growing number of terrorist incidents;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995 which seeks to provide an alternate law for combating terrorism was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 1995 when the erstwhile Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 was allowed to lapse. This Bill has remained pending because of absence of political consensus on the passing of the Bill. On the advice of this Ministry, Law Commission has now taken up the study for formulating requisite law for combating terrorism in the country.

Escape of Prisoners from Jails

†632. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(a) whether the number of incidents of prisoners escaping from jails in the different States in the country including Madhya Pradesh, has gone up;

(b) if so, what is the number of such incidents and number of prisoners who have escaped from jails since 1998 till date, State-wise; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments for prevention of such incidents and action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) "Prisons' being a State subject, specific information about the number of prisoners escaping from jails is not maintained by the Central Government. Prision management, including the prevention of escape of prisoners from jails, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government, on its part, has been extending financial support to the State Governments or strengthening their prison security, etc.

Illegal Weapons Traders in Chambal

†633. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is correct that Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh is becoming the centre of illegal weapons traders;

(b) whether it is also correct that threat being posed to dacoits elimination from rough and rugged terrains of Chambal due to smuggling of illegal weapons; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to prevent the operation of serious criminal activities like accumulation of illegal weapons and smuggling alongwith the number of cases which have been registered against these gangs during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Freedom Fighters Pension

634. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.